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JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION IN FORMOSA

By George W. Mackay, M.A., of Tamsui, Formosa

By virtue of the Treaty of Shomanoseki which terminated the China-Japan War in 1895, Formosa was ceded to Japan by the Emperor of China. Steps were at once taken by the Mikado's government to occupy their newly acquired colony. A force of 12,000 men were speedily despatched to take possession of the island. It may be noted that at this juncture Formosa was full of the Imperial Chinese troops who according to the Treaty were to give up their arms and leave the country. Many responded and left for the mainland in peace. But there were still left a large body of loyal but undisciplined men who were determined to oppose the Japanese at all costs. They drew up in battle array near Kelung ready to give battle to the little brown men, who had landed some miles to the east, but were unable to withstand the rushing attacks of the well disciplined and seasoned Japanese veterans. The Chinese forces composed of twelve battalions were driven back and the Japanese army after a day's hard fighting occupied Kelung, the key to northern Formosa. A few days following the Japanese marched southwards meeting practically with no opposition and occupied many important cities, including Taihoku, the capital. At places the Chinese turned out to welcome them, for since the withdrawal of the Chinese authorities from the island much lawlessness existed throughout the country and the people were, therefore, willing to welcome anyone who could restore order and peace. For this reason the Japanese met with less opposition in northern Formosa than it might otherwise have been. Nevertheless the Formosans were determined to throw off the Japanese yoke. A meeting composed of the Chinese officials was called and "presto" a "Formosan Republic" was born with the ex-

governor as president. President Tang now made vast plans to war with the Japanese but was defeated and fled to China. The headquarters of the "Republic" was now transferred to Tainanfu in southern Formosa, and Lin-Yung-fu, the famous pirate and Black Flag Chief, who had given so good an account of himself against the French in Cochin-China, was proclaimed president and commander-in-chief of the forces. The Japanese expedition drawn up to oppose him consisted of 25,826 men besides several thousand military coolies, and 7,200 men as reserves; the whole was led by General Nogi, the hero of Port Arthur. The campaign lasted for several weeks, during which time the Black Flag Chief was attacked by land and sea. He suffered severe losses and subsequently was forced to flee to China, and the short lived "Republic" came to an end. The total Chinese loss in this campaign were over 10,000 killed. That of the Japanese were as follows:

Died of disease.....	4,642
Sent to Japan for treatment.....	21,748
Remained in hospital in Formosa.....	5,246
Killed in battle.....	164
Wounded.....	515

The end of this campaign, however, was only the beginning of a more serious uprising which lasted for over seven years. As already mentioned the Japanese upon their first arrival were, in some sections of the country well received by the populous, people as a whole who owing to the lawless state existing in the country because of the departure of the Chinese officials, were not at all averse to subject themselves to the rule of their new masters whom they confidently hoped would restore order and peace to the colony. Comparatively few people at that time took up arms against the Japanese except the Hakahs. The forces which opposed the advance of the Mikado's men were the remnants of the Chinese army.

Had the Tokyo government at this opportune juncture introduced a sane civil administration instead of the much regretted, despotic and blundering military rule, much of the later discontent and serious uprisings might have been

averted. As it was the people felt that they were being oppressed and dissatisfaction was expressed on all sides. The Japanese soldiers who were then stationed in the different parts of the island made themselves extremely disagreeable by their harsh treatments of the natives. Many fancied that because they owned Formosa, all the private properties belonging to the people were theirs also. Wherever they went they entered into people's houses, abused the women and took away what things they wanted. Heavy taxes imposed by the Mikado government, too, was another source of complaint. Under the Chinese régime taxes were so light that the people hardly felt the burden, now they were made to groan under them. Besides these, custom duties were greatly increased. This was another source of dissatisfaction. But the loudest complaint of all was the harsh treatment accorded to the natives by the Japanese, especially the military men, who then had charge of all the affairs of the island. They attempted to run everything in a high-handed manner. Elated by their success in the recent war with China, they came to regard the Chinese as inferior beings and treated them accordingly. Naturally the people resented most strenuously these oppressive measures of their new rulers. Redress they could not obtain, they resorted to arms. Simultaneous outbreaks now took place in several localities. The insurgents in many instances attacked the Japanese forces with utter fearlessness and determination. Chinese (Hakah) women with unbound feet, strong and hardy, also, were found, on several occasions, fighting side by side with their husbands and brothers. For several months the warfare continued. The Japanese, civilians as well as soldiers were everywhere attacked. The rebels were determined to drive out the little brown men. Later, however, as thousands of reinforcements arrived from Japan, General Nogi who was then the governor of the island, was able to harass the rebels and to compel many of them to surrender. In the meantime the people especially the peasants, suffered untold miseries. The Japanese troops as they swept from one end of the country to the other, fighting the insurgents as they went, were in most cases

unable to discriminate the rebels from the common people. The result was that thousands of innocent people mistaken for the insurgents were made to suffer. Often a peaceful village was attacked, houses burned and many of the occupants killed. Sometimes without warning innocent farmers working in the fields were made off with and put to death. These exasperated and maddened the survivors so much that thousands joined the forces of the insurgents.

An incident which occurred at Sin Team, a town of some 5,000 inhabitants at this time may serve to show one of the novel methods which some of the Japanese officers had employed in dealing with the problem.

One night a surprise attack was made upon the town and all the male citizens were placed under arrest. They were then brought to a river bank, and tied in groups of five. A minute later the Japanese officers with lanterns in their hands appeared. They gazed intently into the faces of the frightened men, and woe unto him who wore a stern countenance and was tall and strong. Such physical characteristics to these expert phrenologists were considered as proofs that the bearer was a traitor. At once a black mark was placed on his forehead and without further ado, he was executed. When reports of such an infamous act as that became known the inhabitants in that section of the country became so enraged that hundreds who previously had never harbored any thought of taking up arms against the Japanese now flocked to the standard of the insurgents.

On July 11, 1896, the rebels attacked and captured Horesha. The central part of the island now fell into their hands. In June they attacked a town in Goroku and compelled the Japanese garrison to leave their post and flee. A few months previous Lim Toa-pak, the famous brigand chief, besieged Giran, a city of 30,000 inhabitants and caused much disturbance throughout the eastern half of the island. Gradually, however, these insurgents, being hard-pressed by the Japanese took to robbing and plundering and thus degenerated into bands of brigandage—feared and detested by their kinsmen as well as foe. The hardships of the common people were thus doubled. On the

one hand they were robbed by the brigands on the other they were called to endure the oppressive measures of the Japanese. Those living near the savage territories notably were much distressed. For self-defense they hitherto had been accustomed to keep firearms in their houses. Now all these were forbidden by the Japanese who would not tolerate even a sword in a home. The savages knowing that the people were now without arms, began a series of raids upon the nearby villages and farms. Unexpectedly they would swoop down from the mountains and carry off the heads of the defenseless villagers as trophies of their prowess. How many were killed by them is difficult to ascertain, but it is safe to say that fully 30,000 people at this period were forced to leave their homes in order to seek a safer refuge elsewhere. The same state of affairs continued till the Spring of 1898, when a decided change for a better administration came in sight.

The military rule so harsh and despotic was superseded by a civil administration. This change was largely due to Viscount Kodama, who in that year succeeded General Nogi as governor. He made the military administration subordinate to the civil. Henceforth the military men have no voice in the affairs of the colony save those that directly concern their own special fields. In these Viscount Kodama was strongly supported by Baron Goto, one of the ablest of the younger Japanese statesmen at the present time. Under the direction of these two able men steps were taken to suppress the brigandage. The brigands were invited to lay down their arms under most favorable terms. Many did so and became peaceful citizens. Thus the island was once more pacified. The losses on the part of the brigands during these six years (1897-1903) were about 8,000 captured and 7,500 killed. During the same period 2,459 people were killed by them, while the loss of property was estimated at over a million dollars. The total loss of the Japanese was nearly 3,000 killed.

FINANCE

When Formosa came under the Japanese rule in 1895 it was feared that the colony would be a financial burden to the central government. The total taxation of the island at that time amounted to only Y. 2,710,000 annually while the expenditure was estimated at no less than Y. 10,000,000 which must necessarily come from Japan. Two years later, conditions in the colony having much improved, the taxes had risen from Y. 2,710,000 in 1890 to Y. 5,320,000 in 1897. In that year the expenditure of the insular government had also increased from Y. 9,650,000 to Y. 11,280,000 leaving thus a deficit of Y. 5,960,000 to be furnished by the central government. But the subsidies from Japan lasted for only a few years. They decreased year by year as the incomes of the colony steadily grew. It was at one time estimated that Formosa would continue to be a drain upon the Tokyo Government till 1910, but contrary to all expectations the island was able to support itself and become entirely self-supporting in 1905, ten years after the colony passed into the hands of Japan. The total subsidies from the Home Government during this period was only Y. 30,500,000. This seems an insignificant sum compared with the expenditure which other colonizing nations have lavished upon their colonies. Commenting upon the financial success in Formosa Mr. Takekoshi in his *Japanese Rule in Formosa* says

Though Y. 30,000,000 seems a small subsidy for Japan to grant to her colony, still even if it were entirely lost, would it not really be a most profitable investment? In 1897 the imports from Japan were Y. 3,720,000 and the exports to Japan Y. 2,100,000 making a total of Y. 5,820,000. In 1904 the imports amounted to Y. 10,150,000 and the exports to Y. 10,430,000 a total of Y. 20,580,000 which is more than three times what they were seven years before. The total imports and exports from Japan during these eight years was over Y. 113,000,000. Upon a moderate calculation, Japan's profit upon this was no doubt not less than 15 per cent, that is to say some Y. 16,950,000. Moreover by means of the Formosan camphor monopoly the Japanese camphor industry which had almost died out, was revived, and in the four years from 1899-1902 brought Japan a profit of Y. 1,850,000. I do not therefore think it any exaggeration to say that the total profit

which accrued to Japan from Formosa during these eight years was Y. 18,800,000. . . . On the other hand, Japan's gains from trade with the island are increasing every year. If the trade continues to grow as it has done during the last six or seven years, Japan will by about the year 1910 have received back an equivalent of all the subsidies, together with the interest upon them.

Moreover, the Formosan government, without looking to the Y. 35,000,000 which had been raised in Japan as a loan for the purpose of building a railroad and the construction of Kelung harbor in the island was able to defray out of her revenue the expenses of the proposed undertakings. The increase in the revenues during these past three or four years was most encouraging. The year 1906-7 shows an increase of Y. 5,900,000 compared with the preceding year, while the total revenue of Y. 19,766,334 in 1901-2 had increased to Y. 33,871,328 in 1908-9. The most notable increase was the Inland Tax. It had risen from Y. 1,906,313 in 1091-2, to Y. 6,983,222 in 1908-9.

Under the Chinese régime taxes in Formosa were anything but heavy, but then there were few public undertakings to call for large expenditures. Under the Japanese the state of affairs was reversed. The Japanese government today is doing all she can to make Formosa an up to date and a modern New Japan, but then by so doing they are taxing the people so heavily, especially since the Russo-Japan war that they are made to groan under them. The Formosans, ever ready to avail themselves of material advantages, appreciate greatly the efforts put forth by their new rulers in attempting to make Formosa in all respects equal to Japan, but they do loudly object to the burdensome taxes which the Mikado's government has imposed upon them.

TRADE

Prior to 1894 China occupied a preeminent position in her trade with Formosa. Since then Japan has stepped in and taken her place. Today her volume of trade with her colony is more than all of the other nations combined. In 1898 her imports and exports to the island were Y. 7,815,466.

They have risen to Y. 37,385,118 in 1907. Contrast this with the trade with foreign countries and a sudden falling off in the value of imports and exports is at once noticeable. In 1898 the value of foreign trade was Y. 29,702,595 while in 1908 they have dropped down to Y. 20,962,114. The trade with China has steadily declined while that of the United States with the exception of Japan, shows a greater increase than that of any other foreign nation. In 1900 the total trade with America was Y. 2,485,615 while in 1907 it had risen to Y. 5,365,741. Next to the United States Great Britain has the largest share in the Formosan trade.

The chief articles of export in order of value are, tea, camphor, hemp, rice and coal. The main commodities imported are in the order of value, opium, kerosene oil, cotton goods, timber and flour.

MONOPOLY

There are at present four monopolies in Formosa, viz. opium, salt, camphor and tobacco. The opium monopoly was taken up in 1897 with the view more of safeguarding the public health than as a financial gain. When Japan first took possession of the island a very large percentage of its inhabitants were addicted to the use of opium, it was, therefore, decided to prohibit, not suddenly but gradually, the sale of this pernicious drug. The government accordingly took into its hands all the manufacture and sale of the opium. It permits, however, only the confirmed opium smokers the right of purchasing the drug. The government aims in every way to discourage the use of the opium pipe. In this it has succeeded well. The number of opium smokers is decreasing year by year.

Salt was originally a Chinese and the only monopoly in the island. The salt was obtained from the sea water allowed to evaporate and crystallize on the low and level sandy shores of the west coast. This process of salt manufacture has lately been extended. At present the salt farms cover about 1700 acres, but there are still some 60,000 acres of suitable lands available for this same purpose. The

whole if utilized as salt farms, will be sufficient to supply Japan with all the salt required.

Camphor manufacture is one of the chief industries in Formosa. The island today supplies nearly all the camphor used in the world. Hitherto this trade was in the hands of a few foreigners but now the Japanese government assumes the full control of it, including the establishing of factories and the preservation of the camphor forests. This monopoly of all the Japanese monopoly attempts is the most successful. It brings into the Imperial Treasury annually no less than Y. 1,500,000.

The tobacco industry in Formosa has never been carried on on an extensive scale. The tobacco plants grown in the island are generally of the inferior quality. Imported plants have during these few years been tried and though doing well, the quantity is as yet insufficient for any extensive manufacture.

TRANSPORTATION

Up till 1895 all the carrying trade between Formosa and the outside world was mainly in the hands of the British. Since then the British ship owners by reason of their inability to compete with the Japanese lines, heavily subsidized by the government, were forced to withdraw. Today there are several lines of good serviceable boats plying between Formosa, Japan and China, all of course managed by the Japs. The vessels running between Kelung and Nagasaki especially are excellent. Some of them are ocean-going steamers of over 6000 tons. Those touching the Chinese ports are much smaller and slower.

The seaports in Formosa, however, are but second rate. Of the four, Kelung, Tamsui, Takau and Anping, the first is by far the best. It will accommodate several large ocean liners, but like all the rest of the ports it affords but little shelter in time of storm. But within recent years steps had been taken to improve the harbor. A waterbreak to cost millions of dollars is in course of construction. This when completed will make Kelung harbor commodious as well as a place of safe anchorage.

The last three, Tamsui, Takau, and Anping though doing considerable amount of shipping are remarkably shallow and full of sand bars. Only coasting steamers of about 1800 tons can at high tide enter these ports. Lately, dredging has begun at Tamsui and Takau, and it is to be hoped that when the process is finished larger vessels may be admitted into these two harbors.

The first successive Chinese railroad ever attempted was in Formosa. This line which runs from Kelung to Shin-chiku, a distance of 62 miles was completed and opened for traffic early in the eighties. Under the Japanese this line has been extended to reach the southern end of the island—a total distance of some 300 miles. This railroad is a great boon to the island. A traveler can now journey from one end of the country to the other in about fifteen hours a trip which in former days would have occupied a week.

But one word remains to be said with regard to the land through which the rails pass. These lands were largely the properties of Chinese peasants, owners of small but valuable farms of from three to six acres. When a railroad passed through one of these tiny farms often there was little left of them. The loss thus sustained by these unfortunate farmers is therefore considerable and for such losses they receive practically no compensation save a free ticket each from the railroad company for a ride when the line was completed. Such tickets are each worth from fifteen cents to a dollar.

Of the roads, great improvements have been made by the Japanese. A dozen years ago practically speaking, there were no public highways in Formosa, now there are over 6000 miles of good serviceable roads. To be sure many of them are narrow and are only fitted for foot passengers, but in a land where horses and carriages are not in use, these highways meet practically all the demands for traffic and travel.

SANITATION AND CITY IMPROVEMENTS

Within these last few years the principal cities in Formosa have undergone a remarkable transformation. The crooked, dirty, narrow and uneven streets of the past generation have been done away with. In their places there now exist broad, clean, and well paved streets. Those in Taihoku, the capital, or Kelung are equal to any of the best avenues to be found anywhere in Yokohama or Tokyo. The much needed sewage system has in all the larger cities been introduced, water works have also been opened up for the cities. In some cases as in Tamsui the water is brought at a considerable distance from the springs in the mountains.

Another feature for the preservation of health in the cities and towns is the compulsory house cleaning law. At certain times of the year people are required to make a general cleaning up of their houses. All the sweeping and washing is done under the eyes of the police. Should a plague or other contagious disease break out, then the greatest of care is taken to prevent the further spread of the infection. In such cases white washing and disinfection must be done in all the homes. Rats which are supposed to be the cause of the bubonic plague, too, must be destroyed. To accomplish this end traps are provided for all the homes by the government. Bounty is attached to every rat killed. But those who fail to catch any are to pay a fine of a few cents at the end of each month. With such enforcements of health laws it is no wonder that the death rate in the cities of Formosa have been radically reduced. Hospitals, one of the greatest needs of this land, have also been established. The Taihoku Hospital alone costing nearly Y. 500,000 is a commodious building, well built and quite luxurious. The first class wards are furnished entirely in the European style. The Hospital employs a contingent of nurses and specialists, many, graduates of the best German and American medical schools. Besides this there are ten other private hospitals in the capital.

Prisons, too, costing several hundred thousand dollars have been erected in several of the cities. This is a great

improvement over the old Chinese prisons where criminals were thrust into miserable dungeons and tortured. The prisons during the last few years show a preponderant percentage of Japanese prisoners over that of the Chinese. This can partly be explained by the fact that a large number of the Japanese who immigrated to Formosa belong to the lower and worse classes in society.

Of the public buildings which adorn the cities there are innumerable ones. Schools, post office, banks and hotels, many constructed in Western style are to be found everywhere. While in Taihoku, the government buildings and colleges are among the best in the Far East.

THE ABORIGINES

More than one-half of Formosa is today in the possession of the aborigines. They number in all about 115,000. Of Malay stock these savages are as fierce and warlike as any of their kinsman in the South Seas. Every year hundreds of Chinese and Japanese are killed by them. Those who suffer the most are the camphor workers whose dangerous calling brings them right into the savage territories where the camphor trees alone are to be found.

Within recent years vigorous attempts have been made by the Japanese to subdue them but thus far with little or no success. Fighting under cover and in their native haunts an armed force has a little chance against these expert warriors of the forest. Recognizing this fact the Japanese have set up a line of barb-wire fences with block houses at intervals of about a mile along the entire savage border. The whole is patrolled day and night by a force of over 5000 military police. By this method of steadily tightening the cordon it is hoped that in time the head hunters will be forced to surrender. So far, however, the savages show no sign of weakening. The raids made by them are as frequent as ever. Annually they still carry off hundreds of heads of their enemies, Chinese as well as Japanese. The loss inflicted upon the Japanese forces particularly have been heavy. From 1900 to 1903 alone 1,900

of them were killed. Besides the heavy loss of life it costs the government treasury about Y. 2,000,000 a year to maintain the large force of military police in the savage territories. From the present outlook years must necessarily pass before the Japanese will be able to bring them into subjection.

EDUCATION

The establishment of an educational system in Formosa was undertaken by the Japanese soon after the island came into their possession in 1895. The government did not deem it wise, then, to make the education compulsory for the poverty of the people would make that quite impossible. The aim of the government was thus transferred to establishing schools in such communities as are able and willing to pay for them. Education in Formosa is therefore for the privileged classes rather than for the poor or the masses.

But to such a people as the Chinese who value education above all things else the Japanese experienced no difficulties whatever in the matter of support and of obtaining pupils for their numerous schools. Chinese parents, in fact are anxious or even eager that their children should receive a first class Japanese education. To this end thousands have already entered the higher institutions of learning both in Formosa and in Japan.

Statistics show that in 1905 there were 588,786 Chinese children of school age in the island of whom 51,739 were under instruction. Of the Japanese 3,828 were of school age of whom 3,566 were enrolled in the schools. Tuition fees paid by these scholars are merely nominal. The amount required is about \$1 a year per pupil.

In Formosa where 400 people live to a square mile the country schools are by necessity built to accommodate each at least 200 pupils. They are generally well constructed, ventilated and spacious. All of them have ample space for gardens and playgrounds. Some even are equipped with tennis courts. The city schools of course are much larger and better equipped. Many in addition are provided with athletic fields and other outdoor facilities for recreation.

The subjects taught in these schools are, arithmetic, Chinese, Japanese, morals, music, physical culture, agriculture, manual training, and commerce. The study of the Japanese language is given a most prominent place. It is the policy of the government to make Japanese the language of the people.

Of the secondary schools for the Chinese there are three in number. The Medical School, the Language School, and the Agricultural School.

The Medical School has the object of training Chinese young men in the knowledge of modern medical science. Its graduates to supersede gradually the many old type Chinese doctors and quacks who constantly prey upon the credulity of the people. The school which has enrolled about 200 students furnishes a preparatory and a regular course of four years. A post graduate course of one year is also added and all who are able are advised to take it. The school is in close connection with Taihoku Hospital. It has a splendid laboratory and is in all other respects well equipped. The school is doing a splendid work. It has furnished the island with many competent physicians whose services are ever in demand.

The Language School which is a government institution has two departments, the normal and the academic. The institution aims at fitting young men for the position of public school teachers. The courses of study comprise four years and includes the following subjects, morals, history, pedagogy, geography, Chinese, Japanese, mathematics, natural science, manual training, music, commerce and physical culture.

The Agricultural School admits into its classes only a limited number of students, about ninety yearly. The candidates are carefully chosen. They must at least hold a certificate from an elementary school, be sons of land owners, and physically sound. The course of study is two years, and embraces the following subjects, entomology, pathology, science of agriculture, manual training, cattle breeding, and pedagogy. The school has a staff of about twenty teachers. It also maintains a sixty acre farm where

cattle breeding and experimentation upon tropical plants, notably rice, sugar cane, indigo and tobacco are carried on.

Besides these secondary schools for the Chinese excellent facilities for the training of the Japanese youths in the higher branches of learning are also to be had. The Girls High School which was founded but a few years ago is a splendid institution. It has a strong staff and is in every way well equipped and while yet small it promises to be one of the best schools in the island. The Middle School which offers excellent courses for the study of languages and diplomacy was patterned after a famous English School, Abbott Hall. It was erected at a great cost and is without doubt one of the finest institutions of its kind in Far East.

THE FUTURE OF FORMOSA

Fifteen years have already passed since Formosa first came under the domain of the Mikado. During that period the island has witnessed many radical and striking changes. The changes are most pronounced in the new civil and military administrations, in the system of policing, in the development of the natural resources, in the facility of transportation, and in the excellent new system of education. All these useful reforms have been placed on sound bases. The prosperity of the island is increasing day by day. It will not be many years before Formosa will be one of the controlling factors in the ever increasing trade of the Pacific. While the Japanese have been successful in promoting the material prosperity of their new colony, there yet remain problems which have yet to be solved, namely ,the problems of assimilation and Japanization.

1. What will be the ultimate result of the co-mingling of the two races, the Chinese and the Japanese. Will it result in assimilation?

2. Will the Japanese ever be able to Japanize their subjects?

1. There are at present less than 70,000 Japanese residents in the island. Nearly all of them, like the foreigners in America, congregate in the larger cities in "groups" or

“towns” of their own. They associate but little with the Chinese. Intermarriage between the two races is rare. A distinct element, therefore, the Japanese population will always be. This will by necessity constitute a race problem, were the Japanese influx greatly increased. But at present there is no indication of such a tendency. Thus unless there is a sudden tide of Japanese immigration its present small population need not, therefore, be a serious factor in the future race problem of the colony.

2. As already mentioned only 70,000 Japanese reside in Formosa, while the Chinese population totals some 3,000,000. Will the small handful of Japanese be capable, therefore, to make their influence and impress sufficiently felt so as to bring about their much desired and long hoped for Japanization of the natives. To hope for such a result is indeed a task mighty to accomplish

The Formosa of today with the exception of a few cities and ports is just as much Chinese as it ever was. The inhabitants still live in the old time way.” The old traditions, customs, and institutions remain practically unaltered. The old prejudice against the Japanese, too, has not yet died out. The harsh treatment accorded to them by the Japanese has not yet been forgotten. These coupled with the strong Chinese racial traits, together with their sympathetic attitude towards their fellow kinsmen across the channel, constitute factors which make for solution the Japanization of Formosa one that is at once unfavorable and difficult. To succeed, the Japanese have yet much to accomplish. At present, however, it is too soon to predict the ultimate outcome of their ambitious aim. This is a question which the future alone can determine.